

Remarks and Argument

Claims 1-20 are presently pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 15 and 16 are amended, and claims 17 -21 are added. Claims 1, 15, 17 and 21 are independent claims.

Support for Amendments and new claims

Support for the amendments and new claims can be found in the specification as filed at, for instance, page 24, line 29 to page 26, line 19, and in Figures 6 and 9.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 1-14 for informalities. In particular, the Office Action objects to a phrase in claim 1, lines 26-27: “causing said water form roller and said ink form roller with said plate cylinder”.

Claim 1 is amended to now recite the meaningful phrase: “causing said water form roller and said ink form roller to contact with said plate cylinder”.

Applicant therefore requests that this objection now be withdrawn and claims 1-14 allowed.

35 USC 102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 6-8, 11, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Uribe et al. [U.S. Patent 5,277,111].

Uribe et al. discloses a cleaning system for cleaning the plate and blanket cylinders of a conventional printing press using a cleaning fluid applied directly to a plate or blanket cylinder by a brush roller. Uribe does not teach, or make obvious, a system or method for indirectly washing an impression cylinder. [An impression cylinder is a special type of cylinder having a special, low surface energy coating to make it resistant to the transfer of ink. Such cylinders are necessary in the double-sided printing of materials that do not readily absorb ink, such as high gloss paper. Because of their special surface structure and coating, it is highly undesirable to clean such surfaces directly, especially with conventional bristle cleaning brushes, as such cleaning degrades the surface coating and may render the impression cylinder unusable]. In particular, Uribe does not teach or make obvious a system or method for indirectly washing an

impression cylinder by transferring washing fluid from a washing unit to the impression cylinder via a blanket cylinder.

Nor does Uribe teach, or make obvious, removing washing fluid from a plate cylinder. [Most printing presses have controls that engage or disengage all three cylinders simultaneously – i.e. the blanket cylinder is either engaged or disengaged to both the plate cylinder and the impression cylinder. This means that when washing fluid is being transferred via the blanket cylinder to the impression cylinder, washing fluid is also transferred to the plate cylinder. As washing fluid is typically hydrophilic, and attracted to printing ink, any residual washing fluid that remains on the non-image areas of the plate cylinder will result in ink attaching to areas of the plate that should not have ink attached during the printing process. This is sometimes called “staining” and degrades the printed pages or images. Some method of cleaning residual washing fluid from the plate cylinder is therefore necessary].

As detailed above, Uribe does not teach or make obvious the apparatus and method for indirectly washing an impression cylinder by transferring cleaning fluid via a blanket cylinder and the subsequent cleaning of residual cleaning fluid from a plate cylinder. Uribe does not, therefore, anticipate Applicant’s amended independent claims 1 or 15, or added independent claims 17 and 21. Applicant, therefore, requests that this rejection be withdrawn and claims 1, 15, 17 and 21 allowed.

As claims 2, 6-8, 11, and 16 now depend from, and include all the limitations of, now allowable independent claims, applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn and claims 2, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 16 allowed.

35 USC 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 3-5 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being obvious over Uribe et al. [U.S. Patent 5,277,111] in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art [Applicant Figure 1, and Page 3, lines 1-15].

As claims 3-5 and 12-14 now depend from, and include all the limitations of, now allowable independent claim 1, applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn and claims 3-5 and 12-14 allowed.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 17-21, with new claim 17 being an independent method claim and new claim 21 being an independent apparatus claim. As described above, new independent claims are intended to more clearly describe Applicant's previously claimed invention, and to more clearly distinguish applicant's claimed invention from the prior art.

As detailed above, Applicant submits that independent claims 17 and 21 are allowable and requests that they be allowed.

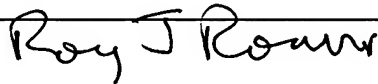
As new claims 18-20 depend from, and include all the limitations of an allowable claim, applicant requests that they be allowed.

Summary

Therefore in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments, favorable reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of all rejections and objections and that claims 1-21 be allowed at an early date and the patent allowed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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